[24th March 1921

Disafforestation of Hospet reserve.

498 Q.—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS Avargal : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member if it is proposed to disafforest small isolated forest reserves ; if so, whether he would take early steps to disafforest the Hospet reserve in the South Kanara district.

A.—Small isolated reserves are sometimes disafforested, sometimes handed over to panchayats, sometimes retained under the Forest Department. The disposal depends upon the nature of the reserve.

The Government will consult the Chief Conservator.

Provincial Forest Service.

499 Q.—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS Avargal : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state the number of officers, including probationers, belonging to each of the communities of Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, Muhammadans, Brahmans and Hindus other than Brahmans at present employed in the Provincial Forest Service.

A.—All Extra Deputy Conservators of Forests have been transferred to the Imperial Forest Service. Excluding them, the number of officers belonging to each community is as follows :—

Anglo-Indians	11
Indian Christians	3
Muhammadans	7
Non-Brahman Hindus	9
Brahmans	12
Total	42

Provincial Forest Service.

500 Q.—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS Avargal : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member the number of candidates that will be selected during the current year for direct employment in the Provincial Forest Service.

A.—The question is under consideration.

Agency tracts.

501 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to lay on the table the correspondence relating to the constitution of the Agency tracts under one Commission and also a statement showing the annual recurring expenditure on this scheme and the capital expenditure incurred hitherto and likely to be incurred in the near future.

A.—The Government have already placed on the 'Editors' Table' a copy of the G.O. No. 2680, Revenue, dated 6th November 1920, constituting the Agency division. Under existing rules, they are precluded from publishing the correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

The details of the reorganization are still under correspondence and it is impossible, at present, to furnish an exact statement of the annual recurring expenditure involved.

No capital expenditure has, so far, been incurred. The capital expenditure to be incurred in the future cannot be readily estimated till a definite programme for the development of the Agency has been formulated.